CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-31 (Cancelled).

32. (Currently Amended) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region; and

a ~~cover~~ surface electrode removably attachable to the probe and adapted for placement on the tissue surface over the target region, the surface electrode having an electrode face and an electrically and/or thermally insulated face opposite to the electrode face.

33. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 32, wherein the ~~cover has a~~ electrode face is generally flat ~~face~~.

34. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 32, wherein the ~~cover~~ electrode face has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~35~~ 32, wherein the surface electrode comprises a plurality of tissue-penetrating elements on the electrode face.

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 32, further comprising a connector ~~on the cover which~~ that removably attaches ~~said~~ the surface electrode to the probe.

40. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 32, further comprising a connector ~~on the cover which is selectively attachable~~ that selectively attaches the cover to the probe at different axial positions along the probe.

41. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~36~~ 32, wherein the surface electrode is adapted to mechanically couple to the probe, wherein the plurality of electrodes and surface ~~electrodes~~ electrode are electrically coupled for monopolar operation.

42-43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim ~~36~~ 32, wherein the surface electrode is adapted to mechanically couple to the probe, wherein the plurality of electrodes remain electrically isolated from the surface electrode for bipolar operation.

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Original) A system as in claim ~~45~~ 32, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration ~~as they are extended distally into tissue from the distal end of the cannula~~ when fully deployed.

47-50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently Amended) A system as in claim 45, wherein the electrodes deploy outwardly to a radius in the range from 0.5 cm to 3 cm ~~when fully distally extended from the cannula~~.

52-64. (Cancelled).

65. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 45, wherein the surface electrode is adapted to span at least the region of tissue spanned by the deployed electrodes.

66. (Newly Added) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region;

a cover adapted for placement on the tissue surface over the target region; and

a connector that removably attaches the cover to the probe.

67. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein the cover has a generally flat face.

68. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein the cover has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

69. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein the cover has an electrically and/or thermally insulative face.

70. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration when fully deployed.

71. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein the electrodes deploy outwardly to a radius in the range from 0.5 cm to 3 cm when fully deployed.

72. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 66, wherein the cover is adapted to span at least the region of tissue spanned by the deployed electrodes.

73. (Newly Added) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region;

a cover adapted for placement on the tissue surface over the target region; and

a connector that selectively attaches the cover to the probe at different axial positions along the probe.

74. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 73, wherein the cover has a generally flat face.

75. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 73, wherein the cover has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

76. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 73, wherein the cover has an electrically and/or thermally insulative face.

77. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 73, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration when fully deployed.

78. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 76, wherein the electrodes deploy outwardly to a radius in the range from 0.5 cm to 3 cm when fully deployed.

79. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 76, wherein the cover is adapted to span at least the region of tissue spanned by the deployed electrodes.

80. (Newly Added) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region; and

a cover removably attachable to the probe above the target region and adapted to span at least the region of tissue spanned by the deployed electrodes.

81. (Newly Added) The system of claim 80, wherein the cover is adapted for placement on the tissue surface.

82. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 80, wherein the cover has a generally flat face.

83. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 80, wherein the cover has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

84. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 80, wherein the cover has an electrically and/or thermally insulative face.

85. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 80, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration when fully deployed.

86. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 80, wherein the electrodes deploy outwardly to a radius in the range from 0.5 cm to 3 cm when fully deployed.

87. (Newly Added) A system for treating a target region in tissue beneath a tissue surface, said system comprising:

a probe having a distal end adapted to be positioned beneath the tissue surface at a site in the tissue;

a plurality of electrodes deployable from the distal end of the probe to span a region of tissue proximate the target region; and

a member removably attachable to the probe and having a cover adapted for placement on the tissue surface above the target region without any portion of the member penetrating beneath the tissue surface.

Cl. Cont.

88. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, further comprising a connector that removably attaches the member to the probe.

89. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, further comprising a connector that selectively attaches the member to the probe at different axial positions along the probe.

90. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, wherein the cover has a generally flat face.

91. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, wherein the cover has an area in the range from 2 cm^2 to 10 cm^2.

92. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, wherein the cover has an electrically and/or thermally insulative face.

93. (Newly Added) A system as in claim 87, wherein at least some of the electrodes are shaped so that they assume an outwardly everted configuration when deployed.